

Alberta Year of the Volunteer



# A Year for Everyone

2001 IS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS

[www.gov.ab.ca/wrf](http://www.gov.ab.ca/wrf)

CALL THE WILD ROSE FOUNDATION FOR MORE INFORMATION (780) 415 8139

## A Planning Guide

### Tools for Involving Your Community

An Alberta Government  
Lottery Funded Foundation

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

# A Year for Everyone

2001 IS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS

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Throughout 2001,

thousands of communities around the world will be joining together

with one voice to say that

volunteerism improves our quality of life,

the prosperity of communities and

the harmony of countries.



The Wild Rose Foundation and Alberta Community Development

encourage your organization and community to

reflect on the aspirations that you may have for IYV.

Think about how we can use this opportunity

to work collectively to strengthen

Alberta's voluntary sector beyond 2001.

For further information on the International Year of Volunteers please contact:

Shelley Borowski at (780) 415-8139

or check out the Wild Rose Foundation's website at: [www.gov.ab.ca/wrf](http://www.gov.ab.ca/wrf)

# A Provincial Perspective

## **"A Year For Everyone"**

*Provincial Slogan for IYV created by the Wild Rose Foundation and Alberta Community Development*



A collaborative strategy session was held on March 20, 2000 with a number of diverse leaders from the voluntary, corporate and government sectors.

The intent of the session was to provide an opportunity to collaborate on strategies that would highlight the International Year of Volunteers in Alberta that, in turn, could strengthen the voluntary sector for the future.

The day was very successful in providing a provincial perspective on national strategic objectives set for the International Year of Volunteers.

**"Building Capacities, Leaving Legacies"** was created and adopted as the guiding principle for planning and activity development for the International Year of Volunteers in Alberta.

### **Shared Values for IYV in Alberta**

Upon reflection of the National strategic objectives, as provided by Volunteer Canada, five specific values were identified as being important to planning for IYV in Alberta.

These values include:

- **Action** – although dialogue is important, it is vital that we put into motion our ideas and activities for IYV.
- **Cooperation** – collectively we should work toward a common end result for IYV plans, creating a greater awareness of volunteerism.
- **Sustainability** – we realize that our actions and plans have a long term impact on volunteerism in Alberta.
- **Collaboration** – through strategic partnerships we can strengthen the impact of our plans and actions for IYV and beyond.
- **Unified messages** – to ensure that our message is heard it is imperative that we speak with one voice on unified topics.

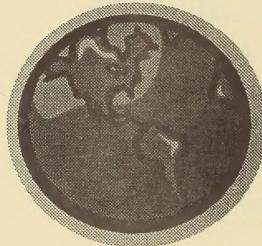


# An International Perspective

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## International Year of Volunteers

### *An International Perspective*



On Nov 20, 1997, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers (IYV).

**IYV is for volunteers of all ages** — children, adults, and seniors **from all languages and cultures**.

The International Year of Volunteers is for everyone who:

- Volunteers either formally or informally,
- For those who volunteer their services on an ongoing basis or only occasionally,
- For those who are serving as volunteers, as well as those who manage volunteers (with or without pay)
- For individual volunteers and volunteers in organizations or movements.

The United Nations General Assembly resolution specifies **four objectives** for IYV:

- enhanced RECOGNITION of volunteer service
- enhanced FACILITATION
- enhanced NETWORKING, and
- enhanced PROMOTION

The **International outcomes** for IYV are anticipated to be:

- more assignments: i.e. more requests for the services of volunteers,
- more offers of service from people of all ages to take up those new openings,
- more funding for such work from a variety of sources.

For more information about worldwide IYV preparations, background documents, potential activities etc., visit their Web site at <http://www.iyv2001.org>.

## *A National Perspective*

Nationally, discussion groups and interviews, were conducted in preparation for a Leaders' Forum that was held in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy and the Public Policy Forum in April, 1999.

The goal of the Leaders Forum was to create a set of strategic objectives for Canada.

Through the planning process a number of cross-cutting **themes** were identified to be consistent throughout all IYV activities and planning:

- Voluntary sector leadership required,
- Multi-level and multi-sector approach,
- Strategy needs to be longer than one year (that IYV is part of a long-term approach),
- Opportunity to advance thinking about volunteerism in Canada,
- Consideration should be given to the international context for volunteerism in Canada,
- Action to develop Canada's IYV 2001 strategy should begin immediately.

A number of **shared values** were also identified:

- Volunteerism is a fundamental value in a civil society.
- Volunteerism benefits both the volunteer and the causes they embrace.
- Dynamic growth in volunteerism is dependent on good volunteer program management
- Knowledge development is an important element of growing volunteerism in Canada.

The core of the Framework for Action report is a set of **five strategic objectives**:

1. Celebrate volunteerism,
2. Promote volunteering for all,
3. Expand the definition of volunteerism in Canada,
4. Improve voluntary organization infrastructure,
5. Develop the voluntary sector knowledge base.

For more information about worldwide IYV preparations, background documents etc., visit Volunteer Canada's Web site at <http://www.volunteer.ca>



# Where to Start

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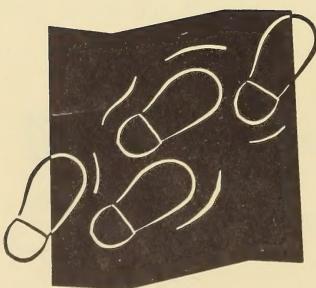
This planning guide can be used as a resource tool to jumpstart your planning, whether it's for yourself, your family, an organization that you belong to or your community.

## Overview

1. Who to invite
2. Sample Agenda
3. Activity 1
4. Activity 2
5. Activity 3
6. Action Plan Handout
7. Potential Activities
8. List of International Years

## This guide should:

- *generate interest and provide background information on the International Year of Volunteers, and*
- *enable you to host a planning meeting in your community to generate ideas for IYV.*

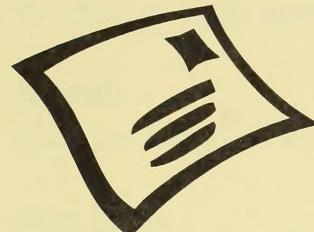


# Who to Invite?

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## International Year of Volunteers

### *Planning Meeting*



Since the International Year of Volunteers is for everyone – volunteers of all ages, cultures and languages, it makes sense to involve as many diverse people and organizations that you feel is manageable.

At the planning stage it's important to obtain a number of different perspectives and ideas. Once an initial list is generated you can select which ideas or projects are most suitable for you to accomplish. Keep in mind that any event for IYV can be large or small – the important thing is that you recognize volunteers and help to build the awareness of volunteerism in your family, organization and community.

Meeting Participants **could** include:

- volunteer centres
- members of your corporate community, local businesses and financial institutions
- community organizations for seniors
- youth councils
- organization for the physically or mentally challenged
- crime watch, block parents, victim services groups
- agricultural societies and 4H clubs
- regional health authorities
- education boards, post secondary institutions
- service clubs
- member of the faith communities
- sports and recreation clubs
- performing, literary and cultural arts groups
- anyone else who may utilize or include a volunteer component

# Sample Agenda



## **"A Year for Everyone"**

### Community Planning Meeting

Date: (insert actual date)

Location: (insert location of meeting)

Time: (insert time of meeting)

<b>Item</b> <i>(Recommended Topics)</i>	<b>Action</b> <i>(What will be done?) (Who will be responsible?)</i>	<b>Time Limit</b> <i>(Recommended Time Allotment)</i>
Welcome and Opening Remarks		5 minutes
International Year of Volunteers Background		15 minutes
Journey Through the Past International Years		30 minutes
Group Discussion Feedback		10 minutes
Outcomes for International Year of Volunteers in your Community		40 minutes
Group Discussion Feedback		10 minutes
Next Steps		10 minutes



*Insert Your logo here*



# A Journey Through the Past International Years

## Activity 1

### Purpose:

To reflect on achievements of past International Years in Canada.

### Format:

Individual and group work.

### Time limit:

30 minutes (including group discussion)

### Audio/Visual Requirements:

Flipcharts (1 per group)

Markers

Masking Tape



### **Instructions:**

1. Take **five** minutes alone to reflect and answer the following questions:
  - Which of the International Years made a difference in Canada?
  - How did they make a difference?
  - What key elements made the Years memorable?
2. Introduce yourself to members of your group and share your answers. (**25** minutes)
3. Assign group self-management roles: discussion leader, time keeper, note taker and reporter. The recorder will record answers on a flipchart.

Be prepared to give a **one** minute report to the entire group.

# Outcomes for the IYV in Your Community

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## Activity 2

### Purpose:

Within the national strategic objectives, identify desired outcomes for IYV in your community.

### Format:

Individual and group work.

### Time limit:

40 minutes (including group discussion)

### Audio/Visual Requirements:

Flipcharts (1 per group)

Markers

Masking Tape

### **Instructions:**

*Allow the groups to select one of the national strategic objectives to work on or assign each group to work on a particular national strategic objective.*

1. Take **fifteen** minutes alone to reflect and answer the following questions:

- What dreams do we have about achieving this objective?
- What would need to change to make these dreams a reality?
- How can the International Year of Volunteers contribute to fulfilling this objective?
- When we achieve this objective, what will be different as a result of the IYV?:
  - at the end of the Year (2001)
  - after five years?
- How will we know we have been successful?  
(Suggest 2-3 key indicators of success for this IYV objective.)

*(Example: if one objective is to increase public recognition of the value of volunteering, an indicator may be that more employees volunteer and more organizations have measures in place for recognizing volunteers than before IYV.)*

2. Group brainstorm of ideas. Members of the group share their ideas for desired outcomes and success indicators, which are recorded by the reporter.  
*Remember: All ideas are valid.*
  
3. Group discussion and selection of 2-3 most compelling (as well as realistic) outcomes that could be achieved as a result of this IYV objective.
  
4. Write your group's 2-3 top desired outcomes and indicators for your strategic objective on the flipcharts.

Be prepared to give a **two** minute report to the entire group.



## Next Steps

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### Activity 3

#### Purpose:

To identify what next steps may be taken by various stakeholder groups in order to move towards achievement of IYV outcomes.

#### **Instructions:**

1. What can your group (private sector, voluntary sector, government) do to take this agenda forward:
  - in preparation for IYV (2000-2001)
  - during IYV (2001)
  - beyond IYV (2002-2003)
  
2. What can you do alone?  
What will you need help with?

# Action Plan

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Whether this is homework or just a handout...the intent is to stimulate the creation of an action plan for IYV 2001 for your organization.

Consider the following:

**1. Where are we? (Analyze your current situation)**

- What have we done so far for IYV planning?
- What resources are available, with our organization, and from other sources?
- What resources do we need to develop?

**2. Where do we want to go?**

- What is our potential?
- How does IYV fit our mandate and goals?
- What do we want/need to do:
  - in preparation for IYV
  - during IYV and beyond IYV
- Which goals are reasonable for IYV (be sure to prioritize your goals)

**3. How can we achieve our goals?**

- What resources do we need?
- Who can we work with to achieve our goals?
- What is our work plan (Break down IYV planning into specific tasks.)
- Who will take the needed action? When? Where? How?

**4. How will we know if our efforts have been successful?**

- What is our evaluation plan?
- How will we monitor outcomes?

# Potential Activities

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Get the word out...activities for the Year can be formal or informal, educational or promotional...the possibilities are endless!

Here's a glimpse at some of the activities listed on the United Nations website [www.iyv2001.org/planning/ideas.htm](http://www.iyv2001.org/planning/ideas.htm)

## Helping People

- Start a literacy or reading program
- Reconstruct old or damaged housing
- Donate blood
- Provide free legal advice
- Collect and distribute used clothes, shoes, toys or food to poor families
- Provide the elderly in need with letter writing services, companionship, health checks and free haircuts
- Build a playground for city children or spruce up homes for the elderly
- Clean up a historical site, beaches, rivers, parks and nature reserves
- Get children involved and informed about nature and the environment
- Include youth in volunteer projects that match their areas of interest
- Organize an awareness campaign on the environment or HIV/AIDS
- Raise funds to buy or donated wheel chairs or a Braille machine
- Plant a garden or trees, assist with reforestation activities



# Potential Activities

## **Support Volunteerism**

- Organize informal community-wide presentations and lectures by volunteers on their experiences
- Broadcast live or taped interviews with volunteers on radio or television
- Ask prominent figures to volunteer at a public event
- Publish articles or supplements in newsletters featuring local volunteers or take journalists on tour to development projects
- Compose a volunteer anthem
- Run an essay contest at your local school on volunteerism or on the topic "What can I do to make my neighborhood a better place"
- Have children print their vision for a better world and create a poster
- Organize a photo exhibit documenting volunteer action
- Hold a volunteer recognition event
- Create a book on the history of volunteerism in your community
- Offer workshops on volunteer service, skill transfer etc.
- Hold an exhibition in a library, community centre, local college or university on volunteer work
- Create a directory of volunteer organizations
- Publicize the number of hours given to volunteering by members of the community
- Encourage postal authorities to create a commemorative stamp
  - Include volunteer related articles in newsletters
  - Encourage newspapers to sponsor volunteer events through advertising them for free



# International Years as Designated by the United Nations

*Since 1959, the United Nations has designated International Years in order to draw attention to major issues and to encourage international action to address concerns which have global importance and ramifications.*

- 1959 World Refugee Year
- 1965 International Cooperation Year
- 1967 International Tourism Year
- 1968 International Year for Human Rights
- 1970 International Year for Action to Combat Racism & Racial Discrimination
- 1974 World Population Year
- 1975 International Women's Year
- 1978 International Anti-Apartheid Year
- 1979 International Year of the Child
- 1981 International Year of Disabled Person
- 1982 International Year of Mobilization for Sanctions Against South Africa
- 1983 World Communications Day
- 1985 International Youth Year
- 1986 International Year of Peace
- 1987 International Year of Shelter for the Homeless
- 1990 International Literacy Year
- 1992 International Space Year (endorsed, not declared)
- 1993 International Year for World's Indigenous People
- 1994 International Year of the Family and International Year of Sport and Olympic Ideal
- 1995 United Nations Year for Tolerance
- 1996 International Year for the Eradication of Poverty
- 1998 International Year of the Ocean
- 1999 International Year of the Older Persons and Centennial of the First International Peace Conference
- 2000 International Year for the Culture of Peace and International Year of Thanksgiving
- 2001 **International Year of Volunteers**



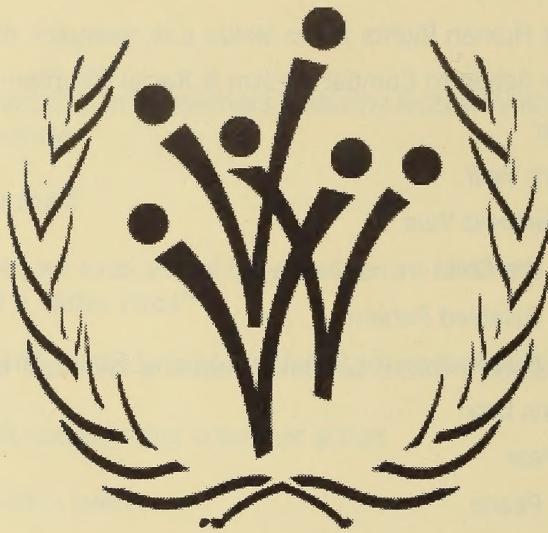
United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance



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**2001**

**International Year  
of Volunteers**

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